

# Annual Water Quality Report, Reporting Year 2013

Presented by: Travis County Water Control and Improvement District No. 17 ~ PWS ID#: TX2270027

## **There When You Need Us**

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2013. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water to you. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. Should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water, we are always available to assist you.

## **Where Does My Water Come From?**

Water District 17 customers are fortunate because we enjoy an exceptionally clean surface water supply from Lake Travis. The Colorado River watershed that feeds Lake Travis reaches many miles upstream, passing through agricultural fields as well as urban areas. The raw water is processed at the Eck Lane Water Treatment Plant, where it is filtered through state-of-the-art microfiltration membranes. Microfiltration rejects particles larger than 0.075 microns and can filter out *Giardia* cysts, *Cryptosporidium*, bacteria, and about 68% of viruses. The water is then treated with chlorine and ammonia to disinfect and remove any residual harmful contaminants, and a small amount of fluoride is added to prevent tooth decay. Water quality is monitored continuously to ensure it is within standards for low turbidity and proper disinfection levels.

## **Source Water Assessment**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is the state water regulatory agency, and they completed a source water assessment (SWA) for Lake Travis in 2007. The SWA is a report on the susceptibility of public drinking water systems to 227 drinking water contaminants. The results include a high, medium, or low rating for each contaminant, as well as a list of potential sources of contamination. A copy of this report is available at the District Office at 3812 Eck Lane.

You can access more information on the internet at [www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/SWAP](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/SWAP) and [www.epa.gov/waterhome](http://www.epa.gov/waterhome).

## **Substances That Could Be in Water**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material; and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

**Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

**Pesticides and Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

**Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact our business office. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## **Important Health Information**

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4781.

## **Community Participation & Questions?**

We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. You are invited to attend regular board of directors meetings on the third Thursday of each month, beginning at 6 p.m. at the District Office at 3812 Eck Lane.

For information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Deborah Gernes, General Manager, at (512) 266-1111, ext. 13, email: [dgermes@wcid17.org](mailto:dgermes@wcid17.org); or Thurman Carlisle, Water Operations Supervisor, at (512) 801-3445, email: [tcarlisle@wcid17.org](mailto:tcarlisle@wcid17.org).

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